(e) what are the rationale behind change in Government's stand in telecast of Pakistan TV?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Till 2.6.99 Pakistan TV channel was being retransmitted in India through cable networks.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During Kargil conflict, there was a marked increase in anti-Indian broadcast by PTV. Apart from denigrating the country and its Armed Forces, these broadcasts by PTV raised serious apprehensions about inciting communal discord in the country. Considering the gravity of the situation, all state Governments were advised on 2.6.1999, to prohibit transmission of PTV through cable networks under section 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(e) when the conflict between the two countries subsided, the matter was reconsidered in the changed scenario and all the State Governments were advised on 21.10.1999 to reconsider the prohibition on PTV, imposed by them earlier.

Disturbance to the listeners of AIR in NER

427. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts that the listeners of our AIR in the North East States are frequently disturbed by the neighbouring countries Radio Stations like China and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control such disturbance to our AIR's listeners of North East States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. There are no interference in the area within the coverage zone of AIR transmitters operating in the Media Wave band. However, interferences are possible outside the coverage area.

(b) The power of the Medium Wave transmitters is being upgraded, wherever possible, depending on availability of funds and ITU authorization.

Pending contempt of Courts cases in various courts

428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: